IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

For the Examiner's convenience, a list of all claims is included below.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving from a requester a request to access an information;

if a link to a first remote computer containing the information is down, establishing the link while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter responses that allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses to make a communication to the first remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, until the link is established.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the request is a request to access information about a second remote computer identified by a domain name.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of imposter responses comprise a plurality of imposter domain names.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein returning ~~a~~ the plurality of imposter domain names comprises:

appending a text string to the domain name to create a current imposter domain name that is one of the plurality of imposter domain names; and

instructing the requester that the domain name is an alias for the current imposter domain name.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 further comprising:

recursively receiving from the requester a plurality of requests to access information about a remote computer identified by one of the plurality of imposter domain names; and

if the link remains down, continuing to establish the link, incrementing the current imposter domain name to form a next current imposter domain name of the plurality of imposter domain names, and instructing the requester that the current imposter domain name is an alias for the next current imposter domain name.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 further comprising:

detecting that the link is established; and

after the link is established,

converting the current imposter domain name to the domain name; and

informing the requester that the imposter domain name is an alias for the domain name.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising:

receiving from the requester a second request to access the information after the link is established.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 further comprising:

after the link is established,

forwarding the second request to the first remote computer;

receiving a response to the second request; and

forwarding the response to the second request to the requester.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the second request is a request to access information about the second remote computer identified by the domain name.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 5 further comprising:

determining whether a maximum number of recursions has been exceeded, and if so, returning an appropriate error.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 5 further comprising:

determining whether a maximum amount of time has been exceeded, and if so, returning an appropriate error.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the requester is a domain name system (DNS) resolver.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the request is initiated by a local application program.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the request is initiated by a remote application program.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first remote computer is a server.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the link is a network connection.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the requester is an Internet web browser, the request is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) "get" instruction, and the plurality of imposter responses comprise at least one temporary web page and at least one HTTP "meta refresh" instruction.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a domain name system (DNS) request initiated by an application program;

if no Internet connection has been established, precluding a timeout and subsequent error message to reach a user ~~from receiving an error message~~ by establishing a dial-up connection to the Internet while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter domain names that allows a DNS request to be initiated by the application program for each of the plurality of the imposter domain names, until the dial-up Internet connection is established.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein returning comprises:

forming a current imposter domain name by appending an information to the domain name; and

sending a canonical name (CNAME) response stating that the domain name is an alias for the current imposter domain name.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:

while establishing the dial-up connection, recursively

receiving from the application program a request to access information about a remote computer identified by one of the plurality of imposter domain names;

forming a next current imposter domain name of the plurality of imposter domain names by modifying a portion of the information of the current imposter domain name; and

sending a CNAME response stating that the current imposter domain name is an alias for the next current imposter domain name.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20 further comprising:

detecting that the dial-up connection is established; and

after the dial-up connection is established,

converting the current imposter domain name to the domain name; and

sending a CNAME response stating that the current imposter domain name is an alias for the domain name.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 further comprising:

receiving from the application program a second request to access information about the remote computer identified by the domain name after the dial-up connection is established.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22 further comprising:

after the dial-up connection is established,

forwarding the second request to a server;

receiving a response to the second request; and

forwarding the response to the application program.

24. (Currently amended) A network host comprising a processor and a machine readable medium containing instructions which when executed by the processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving from a requester a request to access an information;

if a link to a first remote computer containing the information is down, establishing the link while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester that allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the unique imposter responses to make the communication to the first remote computer appear as uninterrupted and prevent the timeout to reach the requester, until the link is established.

25. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the request is a request to access information about a second remote computer identified by a domain name.

26. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the plurality of imposter responses comprise a plurality of imposter domain names.

27. (Original) The network host of Claim 26 wherein returning a plurality of imposter domain names comprises:

appending a text string to the domain name to create a current imposter domain name that is one of the plurality of imposter domain names; and

instructing the requester that the domain name is an alias for the current imposter domain name.

28. (Original) The network host of Claim 27 wherein the instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

recursively receiving from the requester a plurality of requests to access information about a remote computer identified by one of the plurality of imposter domain names; and

if the link remains down, continuing to establish the link, incrementing the current imposter domain name to forma next current imposter domain name of the plurality of imposter domain names, and instructing the application program that the current imposter domain name is an alias for the next current imposter domain name.

29. (Original) The network host of Claim 28 wherein the instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

detecting that the link is established; and

after the link is established,

converting the current imposter domain name to the domain name; and

informing the requester that the imposter domain name is an alias for the domain name.

30. (Original) The network host of Claim 29 wherein the instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

receiving from the requester a second request to access the information after the link is established.

31. (Original) The network host of Claim 30 wherein the instructions cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

after the link is established,

forwarding the second request to the first remote computer;

receiving a response to the second request; and

forwarding the response to the second request to the requester.

32. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the requester is a domain name system (DNS) resolver.

33. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the request is initiated by an application program on the host.

34. (Original) The network host of Claim 33 wherein the application program is an Internet web browser.

35. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the request is initiated by an application program on a remote host.

36. (Original) The network host of Claim 24 wherein the requester is an Internet web browser, the request is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) "get" instruction, and the plurality of imposter responses comprise at least one temporary web page and at least one HTTP "meta refresh" instruction.